

May 23, 2003

**Public Notice for 401 Certification
and/or
Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects)**

**Schwab Dry Creek Bank Erosion Project, WDID No. 1B02116WNSO
Sonoma County**

On July 30, 2002, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Ms. Kathie Lowrey of Prunuske Chatham, Inc., on behalf of Mr. Vince Schwab, requesting a Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for the Schwab Dry Creek Bank Erosion Project in Sonoma County. The application was deemed complete on April 14, 2003. The proposed project causes disturbances to waters of the state associated with Dry Creek and the Warm Springs Hydrologic Unit No. 114.24.

The proposed project is located on Dry Creek, tributary to the Russian River, at 1320 Magnolia Drive, Healdsburg, Sonoma County, California. The purpose of the project is to stabilize an eroding creek bank that is due, in part, to a rock deflector placed in the channel on the opposite bank of Dry Creek by another land owner. Significant erosion has been observed on Mr. Schwab's property during the past winter season.

The original proposed project was revised on April 14, 2003, per Regional Water Board staff recommendations made during a March 10, 2003 site visit. The revisions reduced the area of excavation from 300 feet to 175 feet of stream bank and the volume of rock from 2,150 cubic yards to 760 cubic yards. In addition, the upper ten feet of the revetment was originally designed to be comprised of boulders, and has been revised to consist of a willow brush mattress. Placement of one- to two-ton boulders will occur only along the lower portion of the revetment, and the upper ten feet will consist of a willow brush mattress. Soil will be placed in the interstices of the rock revetment and native riparian plant species will be planted which will include: sedge, rush, willow, alder, and other native trees. The installation of the riparian plants is designed to provide overhang cover for juvenile salmonids and to create crevices for fish habitat and scour for pool habitat.

The total area of creek bank to be permanently impacted by the placement of rock boulders is approximately 0.12 acre. Temporary impacts to 0.49 acre of Dry Creek will occur during the dewatering of the construction site.

The project is designed to be self-mitigating, reduce excessive erosion and to improve aquatic habitat. Compensatory mitigation for this project will be attained through riparian revegetation the revetment. A three-year, temporary irrigation system will be installed for all tree and shrub seedlings. A monitoring program has been designed to determine whether the success criteria have been achieved and whether remedial actions are necessary. The monitoring program will be implemented for 3 years, and a survival rate of 80 percent must be achieved for the container stock and willow cuttings. If less than 80 percent survival is achieved, the Contractor shall bring

the total number of plants up to the original 100 percent count. Non-compensatory mitigation measures include the use of erosion control Best Management Practices (BMPs). Cofferdams upstream and downstream of the construction site will be used in the dewatering process. A temporary diversion channel will be constructed as the existing low flow summer channel and will be in place to redirect flow around the construction site. Upon completion of the construction, the streambed's natural flow and channel will be restored to the pre-construction condition.

The California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), is the lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, and is currently working on CEQA review for the project.

The applicant has submitted an application to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) for a Clean Water Act Section 404 Nation Wide Permit No. 13 and 33.

The nearest receiving water is Dry Creek located in Warm Springs Hydrologic Unit No. 114.24.

The proposed construction start date is August 2003. The anticipated completion date is October 15, 2003. Staff is proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and/or Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act Authority. In addition, staff will consider all comments received during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter. If you have any questions or comments, please contact staff member Andrew Jensen at (707) 576-2683, or at jensa@rb1.swrcb.ca.gov within 21 days of the posting of this notice.